Standard of Teaching in Schools and Colleges

3498 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA
DR. ASIM BALA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a decline in the stadndard of teaching in schools and colleges;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make some refresher courses compulsory for teachers at different levels so as to improve the quality of teaching; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) In pursuance of National Policy of Education (NPE)-86 the Central Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have taken several initiatives to improve the standard of education in institutions of higher learning and schools.

(b) and (c). In the VII and VIII Five Year Plans, 424 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), 73 Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and 34 Institutions of Advanced Study in Education (IASEs) have been sanctioned to provide pre-service and in-service training to school teahcers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teachers Education. UGC has identified 45 Academic Staff Colleges (ASCs) in various universities for organising orientation/refresher courses for university and college teachers. In addition, 71 Departments have been selected to conduct refresher course for in-service teachers in the university system.

Decline in Irrigated Land

3499. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a book namely "In the Famine Trap" written by one agricultural scientist, Dr. Devinder Sharma has made some shocking revelation regarding decline in irrigated land in the country particularly in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the revelation include the going down watertable in these States and also the reduction or organics matters in soil etc;

(d) whether any assessment have been made about the total area agricultural land reduced in the country during the past there years;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the reasons for decline in agriculture land and efforts made by the Government to bring more and under agriculture;

(f) the overall affect on the food production as a consequence thereof;

(g) the measure contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (g). The revelations contained in the book namely "In the Famine Trap" are based on the author's own observations and findings. However, as per Land use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for 19 (latest), the net irrigated area in the country is 50.10 million hectares out of 184.38 million hectares of total cultivable area in the country. In certain parts of different States, decline in ground water level has been observed due to heavy withdrawal of ground water. This decline has been observed during the past three years in certain pockets of States of Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam and Delhi. The extent of decline ranged from less than 2 metres to over 11 metres. As per study conducted on problem identification in irrigated areas in 1991, estimated areas affected by waterlogging, soil salinity and alkalinity are as follows :

Affected by waterlogging	1.61 million hectares
Affected by salinity/alkalinity	3.30 million hectares

The waterlogging and soil salinity do affect the crop productivity to some extent. However, the States have undertaken a number of steps to reduce the waterlogging and soil salinity problems such as conjunctive use of surface and ground water, lining of canals and water courses in vulnerable reaches, treatment of alkaline soils and on-farm water management practices.

Krishna Menon Centenary Celebrations Committee

3500. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the purpose of setting up of Krishna Menon Centenary Celebrations Committee by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister;

(b) the number of meetings and details of decisions taken by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken to implement those decisions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) A National Committee under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister has been constituted with a view to celebrate the birth centenary of Shri Krishna Menon in a befitting manner and to chalk out the programmes therefor.

(b) and (c). The National Committee met on 20th November, 1995 and *inter alia* decided that the birth centenary celebrations would commence on 3rd May, 1996 and continue for a period of one year. The National Committee also decided that all the suggestions received should be examined and a suitable programme evolved by a Sub-Committee headed by the Minister of Human Resource development.

Accordingly, a Sub-Committee was set up which met on 25th June, 1996 and decided, among other things, to organise a commemorative public function both at New Delhi and London; to hold seminars and lectures; to set up suitable memorials for Shri V.K. Krishna Menon; and to collect and publish recordings of Shri Menon's UN speeches. A number of agencies are involved in the implementation of these programmes. Another meeting of the Sub-Committee is being convened shortly to review the progress made so far.

[Translation]

National Protected Monuments

3501. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of divisional offices functioning for the maintenance of protected national monuments along with the division-wise number of protected national monuments;

(b) whether more divisional offices are proposed to be set up for proper maintenance of the said monuments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether attendants have been posted at all the protected monuments their maintenance;

(f) if not, the system in force for the maintenance and security of the said monuments; and

(g) the division-wise number of protected monuments on which till date no special repair works have been undertaken alongwith the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d). The Archaeological Survey of India has 17 Circles and two mini Circles for the maintenance of the centrally protected Monuments as enclosed in the Statement. In addition a new Circle at Thrissur has been ordered to be commissioned with effect from 1 January, 1997.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Regular Monument Attendants have been posted at most of the centrally protected monuments. At other monuments where considered necessary, casual workers have been engaged.

(g) The conservation and preservation of the centrally protected monuments is a continuous process. Conservation works are taken up as per actual need and priority of conservation of monuments and the availability of resources.

STATEMENT

List of Centrally Protected Monuments Circle-wise

S.No.	Name of Circle	Number of Monuments
1.	Agra	323
2.	Aurangabad (including Mini Circle Goa)	309
3.	Bangalore	203
4.	Bhopal	282
5.	Bhubaneswar	122
6.	Calcutta	117
7.	Chandigarh (including Mini Circle Shimla)	150
8.	Delhi	166
9.	Dharwad	301 (w.e.f. 1.11.96)
10.	Guwahati	72
11.	Hyderabad	134
12.	Jaipur	151
13.	Lucknow	362
14.	Chennai	401
15.	Patna	190
16.	Srinagar	64
17.	Thrissur	37 (w.e.f. 1.1.97)
18.	Vadodara	209
	Total	3593

Bhimtangi Irrigation Project in Orissa

3502. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhimtangi Irrigation Project in Orissa has been neglected;

(b) whether the areas covered by the irrigation project have been affected as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and